

IN THE SPECIFICATION

[0003] Chlorinated polyvinyl chloride pipe (CPVC) ~~CPVC~~ is now employed in fire sprinkler systems in many smaller structure environments. CPVC pipe is far more fragile than steel pipe and also lighter in weight. A nominally four inch diameter SDR 13.5 BlazeMaster® CPVC pipe is 7.986 lbs. per foot when water filled. Conventional clamping devices such as illustrated in Figure 1 can allow excessive compression and gouging of the CPVC material.